

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 01230 291408Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /074 W
-----004029 300515Z /10

R 291330Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1230

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM
SUBJ: BENINESE RETURNEES

REF: COTONOU 1174

1. THE INFLUX OF RETURNEES FROM GABON APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED WITH AN ANNOUNCED 10,500 HAVING BEEN PROCESSED BY 22 AUGUST. THE RECEPTION MACHINERY IS BEING DISMANTLED AND NONE OF THE RETURNEES, AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, HAS BEEN DETAINED FOR RE-EDUCATION OR FURTHER EXAMINATION.

2. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL DAILY EHUZU, MOST OF THE REPATRIATES WERE FLOWN IN BY CAMEROUN AIRLINES, AIR AFRIQUE, UTA, SABENA, IBERIA, AND TRANS-INTERNATIONAL. THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS WERE BORNE BY THE RETURNEES THEMSELVES, EXCEPT FOR THOSE ARRIVING BY SABENA AND TRANS-INTERNATIONAL (CHARTERED BY GOG), AND IBERIA (ARRANGED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT). EHUZU ALSO STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF LIBYA, ALGERIA, AND SPAIN, AMONG OTHERS NOT SPECIFIED, PROVIDED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 01230 291408Z

MAINLY FOOD, TO THE RETURNEES AND THANKED PRESIDENTS NIMIERY OF THE SUDAN, SEKOU TOURE OF GUINEA, AND EYADEMA OF TOGO FOR THEIR GOODWILL IN TRYING TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION.

3. PRESIDENT BONGO CONTINUES TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE MALEDICTION, BOTH WRITTEN AND BROADCAST. HE HAS BEEN ELEVATED FROM "PUPPET OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM" TO "NEO-NAZI,"

BUT BEYOND THE HIGHER DIGNITY ACCORDED HIM, THERE HAS BEEN
LITTLE CHANGE IN EITHER TONE OR CONTENT OF THE THUNDER DIRECTED
AT HIM.

4. WHILE THE IMMEDIATE AIM OF THE BENINESE EFFORTS TO HANDLE
THE RETURNEES HAS BEEN TO SPEED THEM ON THEIR WAY AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE, THIS AIM WAS DICTATED BY NECESSITY. WE DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR OWN WARNINGS
TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR REACTIONARY ELEMENTS AMONG THOSE
RETURNING AND WE EXPECT THAT SOME MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO
FURTHER SCREEN AND RE-EDUCATE REPARTIATES.

5. ALTHOUGH THE CULTURE SHOCK FACED BY THE RETURNEES HAS BEEN
MINIMAL, THE ECONOMIC SHOCK HAS BEEN SEVERE. IT IS THE SHOCK
FELT BY SOMEONE WHO IS USED TO WORKING BUT WHO SUDDENLY CAN'T
FIND A JOB AND HAS FEW PROSPECTS OF DOING SO. MANY RETURNEES
HAVE EXPRESSED DISMAY AT THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BENIN AND
SOME HAVE SAID THAT THEY WOULD RETURN TO GABON IMMEDIATELY IF
THEY COULD, INSPITE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM THERE. WE EXPECT
THAT THESE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WILL SEEK JOBS OUTSIDE BENIN IF
THE GPRB CLOSES ITS EYES AND PERMITS UNOFFICIAL EMMIGRATION.
OTHERWISE, BENIN WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH A LARGE GROUP OF POTENTIAL
DISSIDENTS WHICH BLAMES KEREKOU MORE THAN IT BLAMES BONGO FOR
ITS PLIGHT. PARKILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COTON001230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-0770
Format: TEL
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780814/aaaaalqd.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 310e635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COTONOU 1174
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1594363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENINESE RETURNEES
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/310e635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014